

and non-cost elements. Of six proposals received, the selected contractor represented the best qualified and least costly.

(2) The report fails to mention that the Willamette River, one of the 14 American Heritage rivers, has new thermal load restrictions placed upon treatment plants to protect and recover threatened and endangered salmon fish species as well as other water quality regulations.

(3) The report fails to mention that the wastewater treatment plant serving the cities of Albany and Millersburg and ATI Wah Chang must construct additional wastewater treatment capital facilities to comply with the regulations.

(4) The report failed to note that the project is a unique industrial/municipal partnership, between the cities of Albany, Millersburg, and ATI Wah Chang with the industrial partner contributing its share of capital.

(5) The report failed to note that this project provides a secure and environmentally-sound wastewater treatment solution for ATI Wah Chang, a major local employer and significant rare metals industry in the United States. This project protects the jobs at this industry that would have been put at risk had a cost-effective treatment solution not been found.

(6) The report fails to mention that the project is the least-cost alternative that requires the smallest ratepayer increases to comply with the regulations.

(7) The report failed to mention that this project received an Honor Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers for Excellence in Environmental Engineering.

(8) The report failed to say that the project will provide employment for an estimated 100 people in diverse sectors: electricians, mechanics, pipe layers, and excavators; surveyors, engineers and construction managers; raw material and equipment suppliers for the pipe, pumps, rock, concrete, asphalt, wiring, steel and other materials; landscapers and nurseries. These jobs are needed in Linn County, where 15.1% unemployment far exceeds the U.S. (10.2%) and Oregon (11.3%) seasonally adjusted rates as reported in the December 2009 Benton/Linn Labor Trends Report for October.

Talking Water Gardens is a shining example of how to balance the needs of the environment with the needs of cities and American industries to preserve jobs in these tough economic times. Many, many people have worked hard to make this project happen and singling it out for criticism without verified foundation is shameful at a time when we all need to be working together.

Sincerely,

SHARON KONOPA,
Mayor.

JUNIOR SERVICE CLUB 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of an important community organization in Collinsville, Illinois.

The Junior Service Club has worked for three quarters of a century to better the lives of the children in the community. The group's volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide fun activities for the community's youth. Over

the decades, they ensured the children had a good meal during the holidays and have taught them the value of service to one's neighbors.

The club's fundraising efforts have gone to benefit hospitals, fire victims, community parks, senior programs and scholarships for graduates of Collinsville High School. Today, the club consists of about 50 members. Many of the volunteers are teachers who represent the third generation of their family to belong to the Junior Service Club.

I want to join with the members of this House in congratulating the members of the Collinsville Junior Service Club on celebrating their 75th anniversary and thank them for their service. I want to wish them another 75 years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, December 15, 2009, I was unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote 971. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 971.

THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF CHARLES A. TEALE, SR., FROM THE HARTFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Charles A. Teale, Sr., of the Hartford Fire Department who is retiring after serving 27 years—9 of those as its chief.

In his years of service, Chief Teale has gained a reputation as a fair, no-nonsense administrator who helped to restore order and stability to the Hartford Fire Department. Under his watch, the Hartford Fire Department maintained its Class 1 status, a designation shared by only 41 of 38,000 departments across the country. Among Teale's many accomplishments is his emphasis on attaining high educational and professional standards. Due to the department's educational outreach, the number of structure fires in Hartford decreased from 366 in 2001 to just 80 in 2008.

In one of his proudest accomplishments, Teale showed a dedication to the community he served that extended far beyond his duties as fire chief. He worked as co-chairman of a committee that raised \$125,000 to create a memorial to the 168 people who died in the Hartford circus fire of July 6, 1944. Motivated by the conviction that a memorial had to be created before the generation that remembered one of Connecticut's worst disasters passed on, Teale dedicated the beautiful memorial in 2005, on the 61st anniversary of the fire.

Chief Teale's own story is truly remarkable. He dropped out of school at age 14, but returned and excelled, thanks to the mentoring

of legendary Hartford educator Walter "Doc" Hurley. He went on to earn multiple advanced degrees, including a master's in public administration from the University of Hartford. Chief Teale's passion for learning is everlasting, and after retirement he plans to pursue a doctorate in psychology, which will help him empower Hartford's young men to make smart choices as they enter adulthood, just as Doc Hurley influenced him.

The residents of Hartford and Connecticut's First Congressional District are indebted to Chief Teale for his extensive efforts to serve the Greater Hartford community. His dedication to Hartford and its history, as well as his ability to lead, have made him not just an outstanding fire chief but an exceptional ambassador for the city. His fire boots will be hard to fill, but we wish him well on his admirable goals of returning to school and serving as a mentor to the young men in Hartford.

JUDGE DOROTHY SPOMER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Dorothy Spomer, who broke barriers as she served on the bench in Southern Illinois. Judge Spomer was recently honored at Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Inspiring Women Gala.

Judge Spomer graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1943, at the age of 22. Throughout her historic career, she set an example for other young women as the first female judge in Alexander County, the first female circuit judge in the First Judicial Circuit and the first woman to sit on the appellate court in the Fifth District.

A dedicated public servant, Judge Spomer came out of retirement in 1977, when Illinois Supreme Court Justice Joseph Goldenhersch called on her to serve on the appellate court in Mount Vernon.

Judge Spomer's example inspired her son, Judge Stephen Spomer, to carry on the proud family tradition of public service as he presides over the same Fifth District Appellate Court.

I would like to join Southern Illinois University Carbondale, as they honor her at their Inspiring Women Gala, in thanking Judge Dorothy Spomer for her lifelong service to Southern Illinois.

HONORING LIAM McLAUGHLIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Liam McLaughlin is leaving the Yonkers City Council after serving four terms, representing the Fourth District since 1999. He served as Majority Leader of the City Council and is leaving as the Minority Leader and Chair of the Budget Committee and the Environmental Policy & Protection Committee.

He also served on the Education Committee, the Real Estate & Economic Development Committee, the Municipal Operations